



## HOWARD COUNTY TOURISM & PROMOTION

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**Tourism's SOIREE ...Ooooh-laa-la!**

### **Dancing with Dazzling *Howard County Stars***

*Ellicott City, MD (May 24, 2010, 2009)*—Howard County Tourism & Promotion invites you to our annual fundraiser –SOIREE—Ooooh-laa-la! on THURSDAY, June 3rd, 2010 at five o'clock in the tented gardens of historic Belmont Conference Center. The Tourism Team, its Board of Directors and dedicated SOIREE committee promise you Howard County's best food, wine, microbrews and more. SOIREE's guests will be transported to an evening in Paris, under the stars, with a fantastic silent and live auction showcasing great weekend getaways and regional travel packages.

SOIREE's signature entertainment is the immensely popular *Dancing with Dazzling Howard County Stars*. Four Howard County celebrity couples have agreed to duel on the dance floor for Tourism. The four daring, dashing and dazzling celebrity couples represent some of the different components of tourism's partnership such as business, non-profits, restaurants, attractions, and the Economic Development Authority. Of note, a portion of SOIREE proceeds go toward a scholarship for a Howard Community College (HCC) Hospitality & Culinary Arts Management student named after the winning couple of *Dancing with Dazzling Howard County Stars*. With the help of Arthur Murray Dance Studio lessons, you can watch the celebrity couples transform from industry leaders in business, non-profits, restaurants, attractions and the Economic Development Authority to SOIREE's Dancing Stars with YouTube style videos by HCC graduate Shannon Eltzroth and our friends at HoCoMoJo [www.visithowardcounty.com](http://www.visithowardcounty.com).

Guests who purchase tickets to SOIREE will receive a complimentary \$25.00 gift certificate for The Elkridge Furnace Inn in the mail. SOIREE special (4) ticket package price of \$275.00 (a saving of \$45.00) are a nice price break in these economic times.

#### **SOIREE 2010 Dancing with Dazzling Howard County Stars are...**

**Jeryl & Matt Baker, Terrapin Adventures**

Presented by BB&T Bank and The Columbia Triathlon

**Larry Collins and Carmen Howlette, HCEDA Technology Council**

Presented by Toby's the Dinner Theatre of Columbia

**Tatum & Bill Liguori, Leadership Capital Group & The Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults**

Presented by Aida Bistro & Wine Bar and Hearn Kirkwood

**Pamela & Chris Sikora, sweet. a bakery & café**

Presented by Howard Community College

**PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS**

AIDA Bistro & Wine Bar

Alexandra's Restaurant at Turf Valley

Belmont Conference Center

Cafe de Paris

Crab Shanty

Elkridge Furnace Inn

The Friendly Inn

Howard Community College Culinary Arts Department

The King's Contrivance

The Melting Pot

Rams Head Tavern

Sweet. a bakery & cafe

Tersiguel's French Country Restaurant

Victoria Gastro Pub

Waterside Restaurant in the Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel

**SOIREE SPONSORS:**

**Eiffel Tower**

Aida Bistro & Wine Bar

Arris Design Studio, Inc

BB&T Bank - Maple Lawn

Columbia Triathlon Association

Hearn Kirkwood

Howard Community College

Howard County General Hospital, Johns Hopkins Medicine

Toby's the Dinner Theatre of Columbia

**City Lights**

Advanced Productions

Arthur Murray Dance Studios

Azamara Club Cruises

Belmont Conference Center

The Hampton Inn® Hotel in Columbia

Cruise Vacations International, Inc.

Elkridge Furnace Inn

Indigo Ink

Patrick's Hair Design

pixel workshop

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# SOIRÉE!

Tourism's SOIREE ...Oooh-laa-la!

**MEET THE DAZZLING DANCING STARS...**



## **Jeryl & Matt Baker, Terrapin Adventures**

**Tell us something interesting about yourselves?**

Jeryl --I'm a traveler. Born in NYC, grew up in Connecticut, attended college in Rhode Island, spent 6 years in Washington DC, 8 years in Massachusetts, 2 years in Reisterstown and the last 16 in Columbia. I've spent most of my work life doing communications for public interest groups, helped start the National Recycling Congress, supported energy efficiency for years, ran a web design department and was a board member of the Domestic Violence Center, Oseh Shalom and currently serving my second term on the Board of the Baltimore Washington Chamber. My weekdays are spent as the BRAC Coordinator for Workforce Development, helping to fill all the jobs coming to the area and getting small businesses a piece of the federal pie. In my spare time I'm finishing my Masters in Public Administration, doing marketing for Terrapin

Adventures and keeping track of my 20 and 22 year old sons.

Matt -- I have always gravitated toward things that had an element of risk or excitement whether it be mountain biking above the trees, white water rafting down class V rapids, seeing animals up close and personal in Africa, zip lining in the tree canopy, hiking the paths less traveled, or starting a business. After starting out as a solar energy economist in the late 70's, I moved in healthcare for two and half decades and now onto adventure tourism and experiential learning through team building. Change is good for keeping you young and alive.

**Who is your favorite dancer, dancing scene from a movie / musical, etc:**

Who could compare to the grace and artistic creativity of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. However Patrick Swayze comes a close second in Dirty Dancing.

**Why on earth did you decide to do SOIREE (great cause, great fun, bought new shoes, Tourism begged you to...?)**

Howard County tourism has supported us from the moment we opened our doors in 2009 and we want to give back to the community and have a little fun while we are at it. For the past two years we have both been working non-stop 7 days a week 12 hour days and we needed this to get back the romance.

**What will make your performance DAZZLE?**

Our fast paced swing will prove that even though we are the oldest couple, we are young at heart and in great shape from all the outdoor activities we run.

**Who will be cheering, clapping for you?**

Family and friends who know how important the tourism industry is to Howard County and to Terrapin Adventures will be cheering us on.



## **Larry Collins & Carmen Howlette, HCEDA Technology Council**

### **Tell us something interesting about yourselves?**

Carmen: I'm a Bikram (hot yoga) yogi.

Larry: In my spare time I participate in motorsports and I fence.

### **In your life (until SOIREE) tell us about your favorite dancing moment (prom, wedding, other?)**

Carmen: I was in a beginner salsa dance contest in April 2007. I had only four months of experience dancing salsa. We didn't win, but it was so much fun!

Larry: I was at a club in Washington D.C. and I was turned down by 26 consecutive partners. – true story!

### **Who is your favorite dancer, dancing scene from a movie / musical, etc:**

Carmen: I'm a huge fan of Cheryl from Dancing With The Stars. She's so much fun to watch.

Larry: The Nicholas brothers dance scene from Stormy Weather.

### **Why on earth did you decide to do SOIREE (great cause, great fun, bought new shoes, Tourism begged you to...?)**

Carmen: Great fun.

Larry: It was a moment of weakness and confusion! I thought she said pants!

### **What will make your performance DAZZLE?**

Carmen: We're going to really have fun doing our thing!

Larry: We're going to really have fun doing our thing!

**Who will be cheering, clapping for you?**

Carmen: My thirteen-year-old son and my dad.

Larry: My Leadership classmates Leadership Howard County 2010 THE best Class Ever!!!!



**Tatum & Bill Liguori,  
Leadership Capital Group &  
The Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults**

**Tell us something interesting about yourselves?**

We met in college and will be married 11 years on June 5th, so the June 3rd Soiree is a great precursor for our anniversary weekend. We have 3 children... our daughter, Taylor (8), and 2 sons, Billy (6) & Ben (3). Bill is a founding Partner of Leadership Capital Group, a retained executive search firm and a Board Member for the Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults. When he's not working, Bill enjoys playing golf, basketball, snow skiing, scuba diving and staying active in his kids' sporting teams. Tatum is grateful to stay home with their 3 children full-time. When she's not shuffling them around, she enjoys working out and is currently training for her first IronGirl Triathlon with TEAM FIGHT.

**In your life (until SOIREE) tell us about your favorite dancing moment (prom, wedding, other?)**

Every time we get home from a dance lesson, we show the kids our new moves. They laugh at us stumbling through the steps, give it a try themselves, and before we know it and impromptu family dance party starts.

**Who is your favorite dancer, dancing scene from a movie / musical, etc:**

Tatum: I still love the final dance scene from "Dirty Dancing." "Nobody puts Baby in a corner." I love it!

Bill: well...he doesn't really watch many dance movies, so staying with Tatum's theme, he'd have to say, Chris Farley in SNL in a dance off with Patrick Swayze.

**Why on earth did you decide to do SOIREE (great cause, great fun, bought new shoes, Tourism begged you to...?)**

We've always wanted to learn how to really dance and we're always up for a challenge. So, when we were asked, we jumped at the chance. It has been a blast every step of the way (no pun intended)! The people at Arthur Murray have been awesome...and Emily, our instructor, has made it so much fun. Thanks, Emily!

**What will make your performance DAZZLE?**

We cannot disclose that at this time. You will have to see for yourselves on June 3rd!

**Who will be cheering, clapping for you?**

Our children, parents, siblings, family and friends from all over, including Kings Contrivance Village, The Ulman Cancer Fund, and Leadership Capital Group.



**Pamela & Chris Sikora,  
sweet. a bakery & cafe**

**Tell us something interesting about yourselves?**

Our 10th wedding anniversary is June 24th. For our honeymoon, we toured Alaska, and our subsequent vacation destinations have gotten progressively less exotic (San Francisco, Chicago, Ocean City...) so an evening in "France" at Soiree isn't a bad way to celebrate 10 years!

**In your life (until SOIREE) tell us about your favorite dancing moment (prom, wedding, other?)**

Chris – at our wedding, our first dance as husband and wife, to...wait, I know, it was, um...

Pam – dancing in Chris's kitchen during our dating days, to anything from Buddy Holly to Shania Twain (Chris: "Oh, yeah! It was Shania Twain!")

**Who is your favorite dancer, dancing scene from a movie / musical, etc:**

Gotta go with the classy exuberance of Gene Kelly's umbrella solo in "Singin' in the Rain".

**Why on earth did you decide to do SOIREE (great cause, great fun, bought new shoes, Tourism begged you to...?)**

We enjoyed watching last year's performances and thought it looked like it would be a lot of fun.

**What will make your performance DAZZLE?**

Our music has personal significance for us, and we combine dramatic flair with witty charm.

**Who will be cheering, clapping for you?**

Our fellow Main Street merchants, many of whom are providing delicious treats for this evening's guests.

**TOURISM...Having FUN is Serious Business!**

Howard County Tourism & Promotion, Inc., a not-for-profit (501c6), partnership-based organization is recognized and funded in part by generous grants from Howard County Government and the Maryland Office of Tourism Development as the official Destination Marketing Organization for Howard County, Maryland. **Howard County Tourism & Promotion's mission is to increase, develop and promote business and leisure travel to Howard County by featuring the county's unique sites, services, products and people.** For more information contact Howard County Tourism & Promotion or check out our website [www.VisitHowardCounty.com](http://www.VisitHowardCounty.com).

**TOURISM... facts & figures...**

10,000 employed in Howard County's Tourism industry

\$780M in visitor expenditures (transportation, lodging, dining, shopping, entertainment)

700,000 visitor stays (hotels, B&Bs, educational & retreat facilities, campgrounds)

20,000 visitors in Welcome Center (from 39 states, 18 countries, 3 territories)

\$13M in tax receipts reinvested to maintain County's citizens' quality of life

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*Soiree invitation © Talking Leaves Design*